Measures to protect Indian diplomats

448. SHRI GAYA CHAND BHUYAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state whether Government are contemplating any special measures to protect the Indian diplomats abroad who are facing threat of being killed; if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): The security of our Missions and personnel abroad is basically the responsibility of the host Government.

We share specific information regarding threats to the lives of our diplomats abroad with the local authorities and request for special protection which the host Governments usually provide. In some sensitive Missions, where there is continuing threat, the host Governments have provided their own guards on a regular basis.

We have also strengthened various security measures in Missions by providing additional security staff and equipment. The various security measures are constantly under review.

Indian move for settling dispute between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers

449. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated the move for settling dispute between the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers in 1986;

(b) if so, what has been the outcome thereof; and

(c) what proposals were put forward by the Sri Lankan Government and the Liberation Tigers for settling the dispute and what is Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. P. NARAYANAN): (a) and (b) Government have made efforts for resolving the ethnic crisis by negotiations with the Government of Sri Lanka and the various Sri Lanka Tamil groups. These efforts are continuing.

(c) The Sri Lanka Government had presented a working paper (Draft Framework of Accord and Understanding) in August, 1985 which was to serve as the basis for negotiations towards a political solution. The Tamil United Liberation Front, in December 1985, presented an alternative set of proposals to achieve a political solution. The "Liberation Tigers" have not put forward formal proposal for settling the crisis.

Government are of the view that only a negotiated political solution can bring about an end to the ethnic problem. Government's attempts are aimed at narrowing the gap between the positions of the Government of Sri Lanka and the various Tamil groups in order to facilitate a settlement.

Demand for upgradation of status of Union Territory of Pondicherry

450. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pondicherry Administration has been requesting the Central Government for the past ten years that the Union Territory of Pondicherry may be upgraded and B2 status be given to it; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the said proposal put forward by the Pondicherry Administration based on facts and circumstances?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The request of the Government of Pondicherry for conferment of B2 status to Pondicherry has been considered on several occasions by Central Government and the proposal could not be agreed to as the population of Pondicherry City was less than 4 lakhs as per 1971 Census which was the eligibility